

LLOYD DOGGETT
35TH DISTRICT, TEXAS



WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2307 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4865

DISTRICT OFFICES:
217 W TRAVIS
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78205
(202) 704-1080

300 EAST 8TH STREET, SUITE 763
AUSTIN, TX 78701
(512) 916-5921

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
SELECT REVENUE MEASURES
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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing
and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing
and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center Carriage House Renovation in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of Texas at Austin, located at 110 Inner Campus Drive, Austin, Texas 78712.

The funding would be used to renovate a historic carriage house currently closed due to structural decay and safety concerns into an open pavilion and multipurpose community center for use by guests for meetings, recreation, and educational programs.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the Wildflower Center welcomes more than 240,000 guests from communities across Austin and the world each year to connect with its vision to support our environment. The carriage house is a key component of the Center's plans to improve infrastructure needed for an ever-increasing number of visitors. Federal support would enable the Center – the state botanic garden and arboretum, which receives no annual governmental or institutional funding – to provide increased experiential and educational opportunities for our community.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2) and 5305(a)(4).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Doggett